

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY PROJECTION OF UNHCR ASSISTANCE IN
CY 1977 TO INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRELIMINARY PROJECTION FOR UNHCR
THAI PROGRAM FOR CY 1977:

NUMBERS

1. THE NUMBER OF DISPLACED PERSONS FROM INDOCHINA IN
THAILAND RECEIVING UNHCR ASSISTANCE AT THE END OF OCTOBER
1976 WAS OVER 76,000 PERSONS ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING
DISTRIBUTION:

.....OUTSIDE

.....IN CAMPS CAMPS TOTAL

FROM DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA...10,238 -- 10,238

FROM LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC

REPUBLIC.....63,657 -- 63,657

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FROM THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

OF VIET NAM..... 1,279 986 2,245

.....TOTAL.....75,174 986 76,140

2. ON THE BASIS OF THE EXPERIENCE OF RECENT MONTHS, IN THE COURSE OF WHICH DEPARTURES FOR RESETTLEMENT MORE OR LESS EQUALLED NEW ARRIVALS, IT IS ASSUMED FOR PRELIMINARY PLANNING PURPOSES THAT THESE NUMBERS WILL STILL BE VALID IN 1 JANUARY 1977.

VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

3. CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT 1976 WITH THE GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION. UNHCR WOULD, IN CONFORMITY WITH ITS TRADITIONAL POLICY, FACILITATE THE REPATRIATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS WHO EXPRESS THE WISH TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY.

4. IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA, NO FORECAST CAN BE MADE AT THIS JUNCTURE WITH RESPECT TO VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION, ITS MODALITIES, NUMBERS, ETC. THIS MATTER WILL REQUIRE CLARIFICATION BEFORE A MORE REALISTIC PLAN FOR 1977 CAN BE PREPARED, AS IT WOULD AFFECT NOT ONLY THE NUMBER OF DISPLACED PERSONS REMAINING IN THAILAND BUT ALSO EXPENDITURES.

RESETTLEMENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES

5. DURING THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1976 NEARLY 25,000 DISPLACED PERSONS, SOME OF WHOM ARE AWAITING DEPARTURE, HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

6. EFFORTS WILL BE CONTINUED TO PROMOTE THE RESETTLEMENT OF SUITABLE CANDIDATES GIVING PRIORITY TO VIETNAMESE ARRIVING BY BOAT. IT IS HOPED TO MAINTAIN AN AVERAGE OF 1,000 DEPARTURES PER MONTH, OF WHOM 700 AT UNHCR EXPENSE.

LOCAL SETTLEMENT

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7. THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THAT DISPLACED PERSONS ARE IN THAILAND ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. NEVERTHELESS, THE FORMER ADMINISTRATION, STRONGLY ENCOURAGED BY UNHCR, HAD BEGUN A POLICY WHEREBY FACILITIES WERE EXTENDED TO PEOPLE IN CAMPS TO EARN PART OF THEIR LIVING BY CULTIVATING VEGETABLES, RAISING DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK OR ENGAGING IN SMALL-

SCALE COTTAGE INDUSTRIES. SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, SUBSTANTIAL ONE-TIME ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN THIS PROCESS OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY CONTINUES TO BE FORESEEN. IT WAS NOT VISUALIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DISPLACED PERSONS COULD CULTIVATE RICE AT THEIR PRESENT

LOCATIONS, AS SUITABLE SITES WERE EITHER OCCUPIED BY, OR RESERVED FOR, THE THAI POPULATION. THEREFORE, A MINIMUM OF CARE AND MAINTENANCE, PARTICULARLY THE PROVISION OF RICE, WOULD HAVE TO BE EXTENDED TO THE CAMP POPULATION THROUGHOUT 1977.

8. THE FORMER ADMINISTRATION HAD ALSO CONTEMPLATED A LONG-TERM POLICY FOR THE LOCAL SETTLEMENT OF THOSE WHO REMAINED WITHOUT PROSPECT OF RESETTLEMENT OR REPATRIATION AT THE START OF THE LAST QUARTER OF 1977. THIS POLICY IS NOW BEING REVIEWED AND IT WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS OF UNHCR. UNHCR WILL NATURALLY CONTINUE TO PROMOTE ANY SATISFACTORY AND DURABLE SOLUTION.

TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PENDING DURABLE SOLUTIONS

... 9. THE ATTACHED TABLE GIVES A TENTATIVE AND PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF THE FUNDS WHICH WILL BE NEEDED IN THAILAND DURING 1977. THE CALCULATIONS ASSUME THAT AN AVERAGE OF SOME 80,000 PERSONS WILL REQUIRE MINIMUM CARE AND MAINTENANCE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE STABILIZATION OF THE CASELOAD, REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH TWO, IS LARGELY A RESULT OF THE PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OF DEPARTURES. ANY EFFECT OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA ON THE NUMBER OF PERSONS REACHING THAILAND IS NOT YET APPARENT.

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10. THE CALCULATIONS ATTACHED REPRESENT THE RESULT OF INTERNAL UNHCR STAFF WORK AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN BANGKOK. FOR THIS REASON, THEY SHOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC IN ANY MANNER.

FUNDS

11. IT IS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S INTENTION TO APPEAL TO GOVERNMENTS, AS WAS DONE IN 1975/1976, IN ORDER TO RAISE THE NECESSARY CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS FINANCING THE UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME IN THAILAND IN 1977. SUCH AN APPEAL WOULD OF NECESSITY HAVE TO BE BASED ON A PROGRAMME FULLY AGREED UPON WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT. THERE

FORE, LARGELY ON ACCOUNT OF THE NEW SITUATION IN BANGKOK,
IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO LAUNCH AN APPEAL BEFORE MARCH
1977.

12. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT A MINI-
MUM OF U.S. DOLLARS 2.5 MILLION WILL BE REQUIRED NOT
LATER THAN EARLY JANUARY 1977 TO ENABLE THE HIGH COM-
MISSIONER TO FINANCE THE PROGRAMME IN THAILAND UNTIL
THE FIRST RESULTS OF THE PROSPECTIVE 1977 APPEAL ARE
KNOWN. THIS FIGURE INCLUDES US DOLLARS ONE MILLION
FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROJECTS WHICH SHOULD BE COMMITTED
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER THAT PROGRESS TO DATE BE
SUSTAINED AND THE BENEFITS FELT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

.....PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR 1977.....

.....(IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS).....

FOOD.....4.5
SHELTER.....0.4
MEDICAL NEEDS.....0.3
WATER SUPPLY.....0.2
BLANKETS, CLOTHING, UTENSILS.....
AND OTHER DOMESTIC ITEMS.....0.3
SELF-RELIANCE SCHEMES.....1.5
EDUCATION.....0.1
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INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION.....0.3
RESETTLEMENT TRANSPORTATION.....2.5
PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND
CONTINGENCIES.....1.0

.....TOTAL.....11.1

NOTE: THE ABOVE ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION
THAT THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A
SUBSTANTIAL INPUT IN SUPPLEMENTARY SECTORS AS HAS BEEN
THE CASE TO DATE. SIMILARLY, IT IS ASSUMED THAT IT
WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT THE SELF-RELIANCE
SCHEMES AND THUS KEEP THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE REQUIRE-
MENTS AT A REDUCED LEVEL. HOWEVER, SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES
NOT PERMIT THIS, OR SHOULD COSTS RELATING TO RESETTLE-
MENT IN THIRD COUNTRIES BE HIGHER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT
AN EXTRA INPUT OF AT LEAST ONE TO TWO MILLION DOLLARS
WOULD BE REQUIRED. END TEXT.

2. COVER LETTER FROM UNHCR REP DAYAL POINTS OUT THAT ABOVE
PROJECTIONS ARE TENTATIVE AND MAY NEED REVISION AS THE
SITUATION IN THAILAND CLARIFYS IN THE COMING MONTHS.

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